



July 28, 2005

Highlights to the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2985 – Legislative Branch Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2006

Calendar No. 138

On July 26, the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2985, H. Rept. 109-189 was filed.

Noteworthy

- At press time, the House was expected to vote on H.R. 2985 after completing its work on H.R. 2361, the FY06 Interior Appropriations bill, with Senate action to follow on both bills.
- The Conference Report provides \$3.80 billion in new budget authority for the Legislative Branch, which is nearly \$225 million below the request and \$163.6 million above the FY05 enacted level.
- The Conference Report provides \$785.5 million for Senate operations, compared to \$720.2 million in FY05.
- The Conference Report provides \$44.2 million for the Capitol Visitor Center.
- The Conference Report provides \$482.4 million for the Government Accountability Office, which is \$15.2 million above the FY05 enacted level.
- The bill provides \$249.5 million for the U.S. Capitol Police, which is \$8.0 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Bill Provisions

Title I – Legislative Branch Appropriations, Senate

Senate Operations:

Conference Report: Provides \$785.5 million for the Senate's operations.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$785.5 million for the Senate's operations, which is \$37.5 million below the estimate, but \$65.4 million above the FY05 enacted level. Included within these funds is \$350.0 million for **Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts**, which is nearly \$29.3 million above the FY05 enacted level. The **Inquiries and Investigations** account, which provides funding for most of the Senate committees, was provided \$119.6 million, which is nearly \$10 million above the FY05 enacted level.

House Operations:

Conference Report: Provides \$1.10 billion for House operations.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$1.09 billion for House operations, which is \$35.4 million below the estimate, but \$52.2 million above the FY05 enacted level. The Senate Committee Report notes, "In keeping with the longstanding tradition of comity between the Houses on matters pertaining solely to one House, the Committee concurs with the House allowance . . . for the House of Representatives."

Capitol Police:

Conference Report: Provides \$249.5 million for the Capitol Police, and includes the House provision to delete mounted patrol.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$264.6 million for the Capitol Police, which is \$25.5 million below the request, but \$23.1 million above the FY05 enacted level. The Senate bill does not include House-passed language to transfer the **five-horse mounted patrol** to the U.S. Park Police.

Office of Compliance:

Conference Report: Provides \$3.1 million for the Office of Compliance.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$3.1 million for the Office of Compliance, which is \$470,000 above the request and \$710,000 above the FY05 enacted level.

Congressional Budget Office (CBO):

Conference Report: Provides \$35.5 million for the CBO.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$35.9 million for the CBO, which is equal to the request and \$1.2 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Architect of the Capitol (AOC):

Conference Report: Provides \$428 million for the AOC.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$427.2 million for the AOC (not including House office buildings, which are included in the House bill), which is \$79.3 million below the request, but \$65.0 million above the FY05 enacted level. The bill provides \$44.2 million for the **Capitol Visitor Center**. The Report notes that the opening of the Center “is likely to be delayed well beyond the timeframe on which the budget estimate for operations was predicated.”

Library of Congress:

Conference Report: Provides \$560.6 million for the Library of Congress.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$579.6 million for the Library of Congress, which is \$11.2 million below the request, but \$34.2 million above the FY05 enacted level. Within these funds is \$101.8 million for the **Congressional Research Service (CRS)**, which is \$5.6 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Government Printing Office (GPO):

Conference Report: Provides \$123.9 million for the GPO.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$126.9 million for the GPO, which is \$4.2 million below the request, but \$7.1 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Government Accountability Office (GAO):

Conference Report: Provides \$482.4 million for the GAO.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$484.4 million for the GAO, which is \$2.0 million below the request, but \$17.2 million above the FY05 enacted level.

Open World Leadership Center:

Conference Report: Provides \$14.0 million for the Open World Leadership Center.

Senate-Passed Bill: Provided \$14.0 million for the Open World Leadership Center, which is equal to the request, but \$608,000 above the FY05 enacted level.

Title II – General Provisions

Title II includes eight general provisions dealing with a variety of issues. These are routine provisions which have been carried for several years.

Title III – Continuity of Representation

The Conference Report includes Title III of the House-passed bill, H.R. 2985, which deals with the continuity of representation for the House of Representatives. Title III of the House-passed bill incorporates H.R. 841, the Continuity in Representation Act of 2005, which passed the House on March 3, 2005, by a vote of 329-68. On March 19, H.R. 841 was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar as Calendar Number 61.